

Message Text

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FOR TCDC DELEGATION

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 3527 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALGIERS
BONN BRUSSELS BUENOS AIRES GENEVA KINGSTON LONDON PARIS
ROME TOKYO VIENNA SEP 9.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN NEW YORK 03527

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

AMEMBASSY PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

USMISSION GENEVA ALSO FOR UNIDO

AMEMBASSY ROME ALSO FOR FODAG

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI AND OWEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, EFIN

SUBJECT: UNGA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW) SESSION
SUSPENDED OVER PROCEDURAL IMPASSE

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REF: USUN NEW YORK 3509

1. SUMMARY. AFTER IT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE
IMPASSE OVER THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(REFTEL NOTAL) THE COMMITTEE DECIDED ON SEPTEMBER 8 TO
SUSPEND ITS SUBSTANTIVE WORK AND REFER THE PROCEDURAL

PROBLEM TO THE UNGA.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 8, CHAIRMAN JAZAIRY FORMALLY RECONVENED THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WHICH HAD BEEN SUSPENDED IN MAY. HE REVIEWED THE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE ON THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS (REFTEL). SINCE THE COMMITTEE'S MANDATE HAD NOT BEEN CLARIFIED, JAZAIRY PROPOSED THAT THE SESSION BE SUSPENDED AND THAT A "SIMPLE, NON-CONTROVERSIAL" REPORT BE DRAFTED BY THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE UPCOMING 33RD UNGA. THIS REPORT WOULD CONTAIN A FACTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE PROCEDURAL PROBLEM. IT WOULD NOT REFLECT ANY OF THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN MAY OR INCLUDE ANY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE MAY DISCUSSION. WHEN NO OBJECTION WAS MADE TO THIS PROPOSAL, THE CHAIRMAN THEN CALLED FOR STATEMENTS FROM DELEGATIONS.

3. FONMIN PATTERSON OF JAMAICA (WHO HAD BEEN IN NEW YORK SINCE WEDNESDAY) SPOKE FIRST FOR JAMAICA (THE ONLY STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF A SINGLE LDC) AND THEN FOR THE GROUP OF 77. FOR JAMAICA, HE RECALLED THE INITIAL ENTHUSIASM ABOUT CREATION OF COW ("A BODY UNLIKE ANY OTHER") AND REGRETTED THAT THE VERY REAL DIFFERENCES OVER ITS RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE HAD ARISEN ONCE AGAIN (DESPITE "MAJOR CONCESSIONS MADE BY THE G-77 IN THE FINAL HOURS" OF WEDNESDAY'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSIONS). HE TERMED THE SUSPENSION A "REAL AND MOST SERIOUS POLITICAL CRISIS" AND SAID THAT THE INTRANSIGENCE OF "ONE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY" WOULD BE NOTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THAT THE "POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE WOULD HAVE TO BE BORNE BY THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY."

4. SPEAKING FOR THE G-77, PATTERSON RECOUNTED THE HISTORY OF THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, CLIMAXING WITH CREATION OF COW BY 32ND UNGA AS BODY AT LAST WILLING TO REACH AGREEMENTS. ACCORDING TO HIS INTERPRETATION, G-77 WORKED TO OVERCOME DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF COW'S ROLE EACH TIME THEY AROSE: DURING UNGA, AT FEBRUARY ORGANIZATION SESSION, "IN FINAL HOURS" OF MAY SESSION, AND AT INFORMAL MEETING OF COW DURING JULY ECOSOC SESSION IN GENEVA. HE SAID IT WAS NOT G-77 WHICH RAISED ISSUE OF COW'S FUNCTIONS, BUT G-77 TRIED THIS WEEK TO ESTABLISH ONCE AND FOR ALL COW'S RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES. HE SAID G-77 HAD REPEATEDLY DENIED THAT COW SHOULD PREEMPT WORK OF OTHER BODIES. UNACCEPTABILITY OF THE FINAL FORMULATION TO ONE DELEGATION REGRETTED BY G-77, BUT TO HAVE AVOIDED A MISUNDERSTANDING ALSO AVOIDS RISK OF ANOTHER BREAKDOWN.

PATTERSON ENDED HIS STATEMENT WITH DECLARATION OF G-77 PERSISTENCE TO ESTABLISH JUST ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS AND OF HIS CONFIDENCE THAT G-77 WILL PREVAIL.

5. DAS HORMATS, SPEAKING FOR THE U.S., EXPRESSED PROFOUND DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE IMPASSE. HE SAID WE HAD COME TO THE MEETING WITH NEW AND CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS; THAT WE FULLY SUPPORTED THE COMMITTEE'S MANDATE; THAT WE HAD AGREED TO THE WORD AND CONCEPT OF NEGOTIATION IN THE COMMITTEE; AND THAT A "HIGH-LEVEL, CONCEPT-ORIENTED DIALOGUE BY SENIOR POLICY OFFICIALS COULD LEAD TO REAL PROGRESS AND BREAKTHROUGHS." HORMATS REGRETTE THAT THE YOUNG FORMULA HAD NEVER BEEN TRIED. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DEEPLY HELD VIEWS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS DIFFER FROM OURS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT THAT THE USG BELIEVES THAT A WILLINGNESS TO BE OPENLY FRANK ABOUT OUR DISAGREEMENTS WILL MEAN THAT THE AGREEMENTS WE DO REACH WILL BE MORE SIGNIFICANT AND ENDURING. HE CONCLUDED BY RECONFIRMING THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. WHILE WE MAY DIFFER FROM TIME TO TIME ON HOW TO ATTAIN THEM, WE SHARE FUNDAMENTAL COMMON GOALS AND WILL SEEK WITH RENEWED DETERMINATION OUR QUEST FOR A MORE PROSPEROUS, JUST, AND EQUITABLE WORLD.

7. OTHER STATEMENTS READ BY REPRESENTATIVES OF FRG (ON BEHALF OF EC), JAPAN, GDR, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, SWEDEN, PRC, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND, CANADA, SPAIN, FINLAND, AND UN SECRETARY-GENERAL. ALL EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE SUSPENSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK. NONE EXCEPT CHINA BLAMED THE U.S., AND SOME EXPRESSED, INDIRECTLY, SUPPORT FOR U.S. VIEWS. CHINESE HEAPED BLAME ON BOTH SUPERPOWERS--THE USSR FOR STRESSING COW'S ROLE AS PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION IN 1980 TO THE EXCLUSION OF G-77 OBJECTIVES.

7. IN FINAL REMARKS, CHAIRMAN JAZAIRY STRESSED THAT DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF COW'S PROCEDURES ARE PARALLELED BY DIFFERENCES IN SUBSTANCE. NOTING COW NOT ONLY A FORUM IN NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, HE LAMENTED WHAT HE FELT WAS RECENT LOSS OF MOMENTUM IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. YOUNG UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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